



Great egret soars into flight from treetop roost at Chimon Island, centerpiece of the Conservancy's Connecticut Critical Areas Program. (See story below and dedication announcement; page 3.) Photo by Clay Taylor.

The Nature Conservancy  
Connecticut Chapter  
55 High Street  
Box MMM  
Wesleyan Station  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
Tel. (203) 344-0716

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #1300  
Hartford, CT

## \$900,000 RAISED SO FAR TOWARD CHIMON ISLAND— TRUSTEES VOTE TO PURCHASE

The Chapter is just \$400,000 away from saving Chimon Island. On the strength of pledges toward Chimon—\$900,000 at press time—the trustees unanimously voted to exercise our option to purchase. Although we are short of the total purchase price, the pledges suffice as collateral, making us eligible for a special low interest loan (from our national office) to close on the property. The Chapter is obliged to raise the outstanding amount.

"We need \$230,000 to meet the \$1.13 million purchase price, and only \$170,000 to cover the interest on the loan," said Alexander Gardner, Chairman. "We will exercise our option in time to buy the island, but because most contributions have been in pledges instead of cash, we've got to cover the carrying costs on the loan, as is standard in many of our transactions."

Major capital gifts are needed to do the job, Gardner added. "Cash, securities, homes, boats, buildings, buildable lots, life insurance—you can contribute just about anything, and in doing so you can materially help in the effort to protect one of Long Island Sound's most precious resources." The tax consequences of such gifts

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	3,383	315
Total acres saved	2,307,704	14,829
Members	205,261	6,876
Corporate Associates	421	22
Tradeland Gifts Received	295	15



*Snowy egret and pair of yellow-crowned night herons share perch at Chimon Island, Norwalk. Fundraising continues as the Conservancy's option to purchase the 70-acre island, Connecticut's most important heron rookery, expires on September 15, 1984. Photo by Clay Taylor.*

*continued from page 1*

are very beneficial to the donor.

The decision of the trustees is historic, representing the Chapter's largest purchase ever made. And the backing by our national office in the form of a low interest loan attests to the excellent financial health of the Critical Areas Program, the Chimon fundraising record so far, and the Chapter's well tempered expectation of being able to finish the job.

\* \* \*

On April 12, Congressman Stewart McKinney and the entire House delegation from Connecticut introduced into Congress the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge Act. Senator Lowell Weicker, for himself and for Senator Christopher Dodd, later introduced a Senate version.

And on June 19 Congressman William Ratchford proposed to the House Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations an amendment that, if passed by both houses, will appropriate \$2.5 million to protect Chimon and several other coastal properties.

These bills are arguably the most important pieces of national conservation legislation ever proposed for Connecticut. But there is no guarantee that the legislation will in fact pass. It is imperative therefore that the Conservancy continue its private fundraising.

*If the Conservancy secures the remaining funds, if the Chimon bill is eventually approved by Congress, if the money is appropriated, and if all this happens within the next two years . . . then the Conservancy would sell Chimon to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at our cost, well under the list value, and at great savings to taxpayers.*

We would use the proceeds to buy other islands and other threatened natural areas of regional importance, thereby doubling the effect of every dollar contributed to the original Chimon effort.

\* \* \*

The \$900,000 already pledged toward Chimon is the largest amount ever raised by the Chapter for any single acquisition. Let us build on the momentum and meet the remaining challenge, \$400,000. Only then can the Conservancy move on to the many other land saving opportunities that await—and need—our attention.

W. Kent Olson  
Executive Director

## INCREASE YOUR ANNUAL INCOME THROUGH A GIFT TO TNC

Are you holding stocks that have appreciated significantly in value? Many of these securities may now be yielding 5% or less in spendable income.

You could double your income, completely avoid capital gains tax, and receive an income tax deduction by donating highly appreciated/low yielding securities to the Conservancy's new Pooled Income Fund.

The new fund works as follows:

1. Securities are irrevocably transferred to the Fund. Minimum contribution \$5,000.
2. The Fund reinvests your gift for a high yield. Neither you nor the Fund pays capital gains tax. You are relieved of further investment management.
3. You or your named recipient(s) receive an annual income, paid quarterly for the rest of your lives based on the full fair market value of the gift. An 11-12% return is expected this year.
4. You receive an income tax deduction the year the gift is made.
5. After your lifetime and/or the lifetimes of other named recipients, your share of the principal is withdrawn from the Fund and is used by the Conservancy to protect important natural areas in Connecticut and throughout the country.

As an expression of our appreciation, all contributors to life income funds are named honorary life members of The Nature Conservancy.

Other types of life income arrangements can be established with gifts of real estate.

For further information, please contact Ken Olson or David Warren at the Chapter Office. Your inquiry will be handled in full confidence.



Still \$29,000 short of costs, the Chapter borrowed funds to complete the purchase of Benton Hill Fen in Sharon, Connecticut, when its option expired on June 15, 1984. The wetland site is home to numerous rare species, both plant and animal. Photo by Clay Taylor.

## CHAPTER CLOSES WETLAND DEAL—\$29,000 STILL NEEDED

The Trustees are pleased to announce that on June 15, 1984, the Chapter closed on 30 acres of prime wetland and endangered species habitat at Benton Hill Fen, Sharon. The fundraising goal was \$150,000—\$112,000 for purchase and \$38,000 for permanent management of that land and of the surrounding parcels on which the Conservancy either has received or is presently negotiating gift easements. At this writing the \$38,000 management fund has been raised, as well as \$83,000 toward the purchase price, for a total of \$121,000 in cash and pledges. \$29,000 remains to be raised to conclude the Benton Hill campaign.

Peter Cooper, Chairman of the Acquisition and Development Committee said: "We have every intention of hanging on to this hard earned land, but to do so we must finish up the fundraising. The only other alternative is to sell developable portions of the uplands that buffer the wetland, which we don't want to do."

Chairman Alexander Gardner added, "We've secured the management fund, and we're asking that someone now step forward to write off the rest of the purchase price. To lose Benton Hill Fen now would be unthinkable."

Gardner and Cooper both emphasized that the most efficient means of completing the job was through major capital gifts. They encouraged donors of smaller gifts to keep donating instead to Chapter operations so that the staff can continue to negotiate land deals at Benton Hill and elsewhere.

Benton Hill Fen is a large, calcareous wetland whose cool, alkaline waters support six rare plants and one rare animal nearly extinct in Connecticut. The fen is the first property purchased under the Chapter's three-year Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Program Director, David Warren, stated that the Chapter is working to secure agreements protecting land north of the 30-acre tract. Protection of the extreme southern end was achieved in

1983 thanks to a gift of a conservation easement from Miss Adelaide Emory. In all, the Conservancy hopes to permanently safeguard 90 acres of wetlands and associated uplands, a lasting benefit to residents of Sharon and a valuable addition to the Conservancy's portfolio of lands.

Said Warren, "The generosity of other land owners will mean little if we are unable to close the gap and hold on to the central 30 acres. It would take only one or two large gifts to put this project to bed. Then we can level our sights at other important components of Connecticut's beautiful landscape."

## ALDEN TAYLOR HONORED

After nearly a decade of active service, Chapter trustee Alden Taylor recently retired from the Board. The staff and his fellow trustees honored him with the title *Trustee Emeritus* and a Certificate of Special Recognition "for his unstinting support of The Nature Conservancy, his leadership as chairman of the Connecticut Chapter, his talents as editor-writer-designer; [and] for his enduring patience in times of profound organizational change." Mr. Taylor served as Chapter chairman from 1975 to 1978.

Previous Connecticut recipients of the Certificate of Special Recognition are:

Alexander B. and Lucy D. S. Adams  
John A. Blum  
Governor and Mrs. Chester Bowles  
Senator Christopher Dodd  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gagarin and Family  
Representative Sam Gejdenson  
Representative Stewart McKinney  
Leslie J. Mehrhoff  
Governor William A. O'Neill  
Marvin Holcomb Stocking  
Dr. Hugo Thomas  
Senator Lowell Weicker



Alexander Gardner, Chairman, and David Warren, Critical Areas Program Director, of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter present carved statue of a peregrine falcon to Edward F. Barrett, Vice-President, and Ronald A. Partnoy, Corporate Counsel, of Remington Arms Co., Inc., in appreciation of Remington's support as a Corporate Associate of The Nature Conservancy.

## GARDEN OF EDEN WINS MAJOR FILM AWARD

Added to the long list of awards already received by the new Conservancy film, *The Garden of Eden*, is a blue ribbon (first place) award in the Environmental Issues category from the American Film Festival. The Nature Conservancy accepted this prestigious award from the Educational Film Library Association in a ceremony on June 1 in New York City.

The 28-minute film about species extinction and habitat destruction was produced with a major grant from the Continental Group of Stamford.

The film is available from the Chapter office by advance reservation.

## WILKINS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Suzanne Wilkins, for four years the Director of the Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau, was recently named Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association. Under her leadership, the Conservancy and the Conservation Law Foundation of New England operated the Service Bureau to provide technical assistance to the state's 83 independent land trusts.



Suzanne C. Wilkins

Said Chapter Director Ken Olson, "Suzi is a dynamo, and she single-handedly brought the bureau to a high performance level. It's sad that she'll not be with us, but the Farmington River Watershed Association represents a fine professional challenge and we wish her well in her new responsibilities."

Wilkins was responsible for helping to upgrade numerous land trusts, for helping to start others from scratch, and for putting on their agendas more than 2,000 acres worth of potential land acquisitions. "In addition," said Olson, "Suzi was the person primarily responsible for the recent addition of critical natural lands at West Rock State Park in New Haven. She handled well an extremely sensitive and demanding situation, one fraught with political and financial pitfalls. She's a great professional."

Wilkins will remain active with the Conservancy as a consultant to the Land Trust Service Bureau Advisory Board.

## COOLEY TAKES CONSERVANCY JOB IN BOSTON

After eight years on the Connecticut Chapter staff, Susan Cooley is leaving to become Director of Bequests for The Nature Conservancy in its national office's Planned Giving Office in Boston, where she will work with Alice Pinsley, Director of Planned Giving, and Channing Page, Assistant to the Director.

"Susan Cooley has about as many friends and supporters as there are trees in Connecticut," said Ken Olson. "She's been a great ambassador for the Chapter and has done a very fine job in one of the most difficult of Conservancy positions." As Chapter Land Steward and Associate Director, Cooley managed more than 11,000 acres of land, monitored 47 conservation easements, and 53 other properties in which TNC has legal reversionary interest.

Cooley is author of *Country Walks in Connecticut*, the highly successful guide book to Conservancy preserves. She directed all the master planning for preserves, supervised more than 25 summer staff, and Susan D. Cooley worked with 50 volunteer committees.

Said Olson, "Her new position represents a promising professional move, and it is fortunate for the Chapter and her friends here in Connecticut that she's remaining in the Conservancy family."

Cooley said, "My years here have been very rewarding both professionally and personally. But, as I move on, I am very pleased to be still a part of the Conservancy. I am looking forward to the new challenges with the Planned Giving Office, but will keep a special spot in my heart for Connecticut."



## GIVE US YOUR YACHT!

Summer will soon be over, and if you are wondering what to do about your sailboat or motor craft, we've got the answer. Why not give it to the Conservancy?

We'll sell it and use the proceeds to buy land in Connecticut. You'll get a nifty tax deduction for the appraised fair market value, plus the satisfaction of making a major contribution to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

Contact Ken Olson for details. All inquiries will be treated confidentially.

# CRITICAL AREAS: SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP

## 1984

*The summer of 1984 marks the tenth year of summer field research sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter through the Student Internship Program (SIP). Begun under the direction of Arthur Weissman and continued under Susan Cooley, SIP has provided the Conservancy with valuable information with which to manage our land. Over the past couple of years, the student research has been augmented by the work of professionals who apply for funding through our Small Grants Program. Both SIP and the Small Grants Program have now become an integral part of the Connecticut Chapter's Critical Areas Program and have continued to contribute pertinent information to the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base. The following pages further explain the Science and Stewardship Programs of the Critical Areas Program.*

### SUMMER WARDENS DO MORE THAN POLICE

Griswold Point and Pattagansett Marshes share much in common. Situated on Long Island Sound, both Conservancy preserves have a stretch of sandy beach backed by fragile dunes, and both are habitat for an endangered bird species or two. Another similarity is that both favor large summer crowds, not necessarily beneficial to the protection of the natural areas and their biota.

For close to ten years the Conservancy has employed seasonal wardens to patrol and protect Griswold Point. The warden program at Pattagansett has been running for half as many years. These young men and women are generally college-aged and are in khaki uniform sporting an identifying Conservancy insignia. Most are majoring in environmental studies, and the summer spent on the beach and in continual contact with the public provides a fine opportunity to pass on their knowledge about the seashore ecosystem and to learn more.

This summer, Susan Latourette and John White will share the warden duties at both preserves. They will pick up litter, post signs, keep beach grass off the dunes, persuade water skiers to go elsewhere, and ask picnickers to carry out what they carry in. Above all, they will make sure that the osprey, least tern, and piping plover are left in relative peace. Nancy Pomeroy has agreed to volunteer a few hours a week at Pattagansett also.

Their high visibility on the beach makes them ideal ambassadors for The Nature Conservancy. Armed with membership envelopes and the latest newsletter, they do an admirable job of publicizing the Conservancy's mission.

The 150 acres at Byram River Gorge in Greenwich are ably looked after by off-duty policeman Tom Cox, who reports directly to preserve chairman Phoebe Milliken. In the decade that Cox has been affiliated with the Conservancy, he has acted as our soft-spoken emissary, persuading teenagers to run their dirt bikes other than inside our boundaries both here and at the Helen G. Altschul Preserve in Stamford.



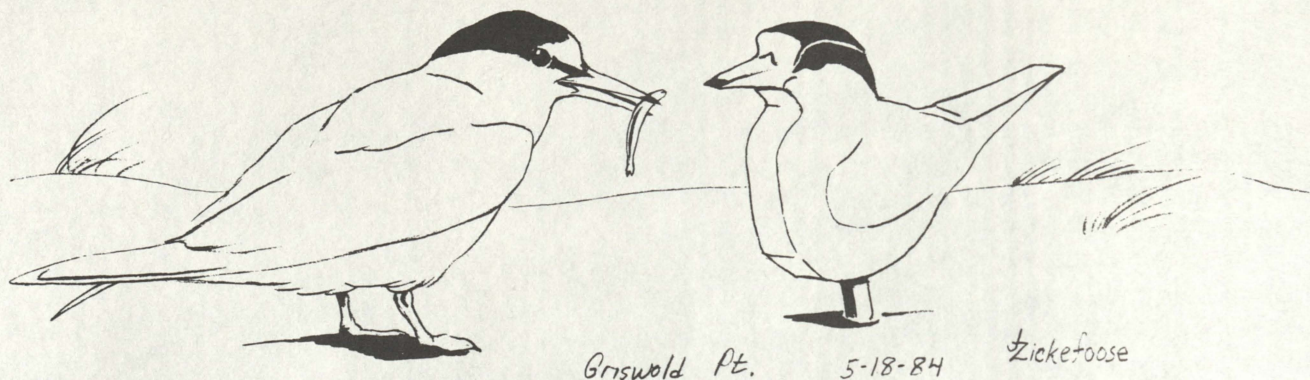
*Conservancy warden Nancy Pomeroy notes observations from her day's patrol of Pattagansett Marshes, while John White, also a TNC warden, collects rubbish from beach.*

### SMALL GRANTS AWARDED TO STUDY INSECTS

Debbie Lee, Ph.D. candidate of the University of Connecticut in Storrs, has returned to the Conservancy's Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam to continue last year's study of Chironomids. These non-biting midges spend a good portion of their life cycle under water, where Lee checks them regularly. She has sampled the preserve's two major streams, Burnham and Strong brooks. She is not only documenting each genus and species of Chironomid she discovers, but is now trying to determine just how these tiny beasts use the submerged wood and detritus in the stream beds.

Meanwhile, Dr. Dale Schweitzer, who has most recently been working at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, continues to pursue his life-long interest in moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera). Schweitzer has been concentrating on the rare Lepidoptera of Connecticut and has visited the threatened critical areas of the state in search of them.

His and Lee's findings will be filed in the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base—to be available to a host of users ranging from scientists inquiring about comparative studies, to land conservationists wanting to identify critical areas in need of protection, to land developers wishing to avoid areas of ecological importance.



## SAVING TERNS AND PLOVERS

The sign reads: *This beach is home to Connecticut's two most seriously threatened bird species: the least tern and the piping plover. These rare birds nest from May through August. Eggs and chicks lie on the sand and are easily harmed by people, vehicles, and dogs. Please stay well outside the posted areas and walk close to the water. No dogs, please.*

Julie Zickefoose, summer intern, is mid-way through her second season of directing the Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program. Early in April, she began her rounds to the dozen nesting sites to rekindle the interest of volunteers she had worked with the previous summer. She posted this season's nesting beaches, patrolling and educating the public to obey the signs' request. Zickefoose worked with Hadlyme bird carver Robert Braunfield in producing handsomely painted wooden decoys that were used successfully to lure least terns to the Conservancy's Griswold Point Preserve. She publicizes her work in a bulletin entitled, "From the Shore." The accompanying chart, excerpted from this summer's bulletin, quantifies both seasons' tallies.

1984's encouraging rise in tern numbers can be attributed partially to the protection afforded by the program,

and in part to the March 28 storm. Pounding seas cast a fresh blanket of sand over the beach grass that had covered traditional nesting areas. The greatest tern increase was seen at Sandy Point, where the Recovery Program and West Haven's Department of Parks and Recreation worked together to block off-road vehicle access in time for the 1984 nesting season.

Now that Zickefoose has posted all this year's nesting sites, she and a handful of volunteers are patrolling the colonies, hoping to keep destructive human impact at a minimum. In addition, she is carefully censusing all nesting pairs of least terns and piping plovers, taking nest and egg counts and recording the success rate of fledglings. This information is then plugged into the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base. Since the data base computer speaks the same language as other computers that store like information across the nation, we are able to interpret the global health of these species and focus our management efforts accordingly.

Based on last summer's success, which marked the first time the Conservancy had stepped outside its own preserve boundaries to implement a statewide conservation management program, we are cautiously optimistic about the long-term survival of these species.

### LEAST TERN/PIPING PLOVER PAIR COUNTS 1983-1984

Colony Name	Town	Tern/Plover Number pairs		Tern/Plover Change in Population 1983 to 1984
		1983	1984	
Short Beach	Stratford	0/2	0/2	same/same
Long Beach	Stratford	18/4	80/4	+ 62/same
Milford Point	Milford	9/2	19/2	+ 10/same
Sandy Point	W. Haven	53/2	140/2	+ 87/same
Grass I.	Guilford	0/1	0/0	same/ - 1
Cedar Beach	Clinton	0/0	1/0	+ 1/same
Menunketesuck I.	Westbrook	120/0	90/0	- 30/same
Pilot's Pt.	Westbrook	31/2	7/0	- 24/ - 2
Griswold Pt.	Old Lyme	0/2	26/2	+ 26/same
Hatchett's Pt.	S. Lyme	4/1	4/0	same/ - 1
The Strand (Goshen Cove)	Groton	0/1	0/1	same/same
TOTALS:		235/17	367/13	+ 132/ - 4

## WATER QUALITY AT BEESLICK PRESERVE

In an early May downpour, Small Grants recipient Dr. Priscilla Baillie and summer intern Peggy Bliss arrived at Beeslick Preserve (a 102-acre gem in Lakeville owned and managed by the Conservancy). While each scientist is familiar with the uncertainties of weather and resultant wet feet, the sight of Beeslick Pond clearly distressed them. In our two-year absence since Caren Caljouw took the Connecticut calcareous wetlands by storm, a colony of beaver had become active in the 30-acre pond. A greatly enlarged lake, with a surface fully two feet higher, was backed behind a well-constructed beaver dam.



*Peggy Bliss, calcareous wetlands intern, surveys the submerged bog mat at Beeslick Preserve, preparatory to running a transect.*

Dr. Baillie wagged her head in disbelief and moaned how difficult it would be now to get a boat into the pond to take water samples. Bliss, dressed fetchingly in a green plastic bag *cum* raincoat, stood thigh-deep in water and stared below at the drowned pitcher plant on the submerged bog mat. How would she ever run a transect through here, and what was the point?

To the rescue came Pat Trowbridge, manager of neighbor Jack Blum's Fairfield Farm. Trowbridge produced a long-tined potato fork and began to clear the dam. In early June D.E.P. wildlife biologist Steve Jackson inspected the pond and determined that the beaver were gone. Already thoroughly soaked, he waded in farther to pull the final sticks from the dam, lowering the water level to "normal".

In the ensuing summer months, Baillie will take a series of water and aquatic plant samples to determine the water quality over time. Through her interpretations we hope to identify sources of pollution, should they exist, and seek remedies.

Bliss will make a comprehensive study of the flora of the bog mat along a permanent transect line. In years to come, other scientists will be able to judge quantitatively, based on this baseline collection of data, just how the plant community is changing over time.

Bliss will also spend time at our three easements along Moore Brook in Salisbury. Her information about rare and endangered species will be entered into the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base and also passed on to Jennifer Melville who is documenting conservation easements at Moore Brook and elsewhere (see story below).

## MONITORING EASEMENTS

The three easements along Moore Brook in Salisbury, acquired last year, are being further scrutinized this summer. Peggy Bliss of the Conservancy's Eastern Regional Heritage Program in Boston is on loan to Connecticut this summer to further catalog the rare plants along the four-mile stretch of brook. Already she has been successful in her field research, finding there a second large population of the rare sweet coltsfoot, endemic to calcareous wetlands.

She is forwarding this information to Nancy Murray of Connecticut's Natural Diversity Data Base, who logs the details about each species into a computer which is linked to another 38 similar computers nationwide.

Bliss also forwards a summary of her findings to Jennifer Melville, a summer intern who is completing the reports that document each easement. By summer's end, Melville will have compiled deeds, surveys, road, and topographical maps for all the easements; she will have gathered aerial and ground photographs that illustrate the status of each easement property, and she will have bound these in a notarized volume that is distributed to the present landowners. In this way, it can, in turn, be handed down to subsequent owners of the property under easement, thereby avoiding confusion over the conservation easement agreement in the future.



*Summer intern Jennifer Melville uses aerial photographs to document easement boundaries at Moore Brook, Salisbury, Connecticut.*

## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER PLANT COMMUNITIES

For the second year, Dr. Marjorie Holland of the College of New Rochelle and her team of college student researchers will analyze and compare the biotic community structure at two Conservancy preserves, Lord's Cove in Lyme and Great Meadow in Essex. Both studies have been made possible largely through the Chapter's Small Grants Program.

Last year Dr. Holland and five students looked at a wide variety of factors in these fresh-to-brackish water marshes. Each student concentrated on a specific project including an analysis of percent cover and frequency of marsh vegetation in high, mid and lower marsh of each tidal wetland. They also checked the changes in plant productivity throughout the growing season.

They found that the two wetlands on opposite sides of the Connecticut River were quite distinct in appearance and shared only 45% of the same vascular plant species.



Sharing the results of her 1983 research at Lord's Cove and Chapman's Pond preserves is Marge Holland, participant in the Conservancy's Small Grants Program. Marge is continuing her research in 1984, assisted by students Anne Reilly and Patty Senerchia.

The productivity of the aboveground biomass at Great Meadow is comparable to that in similar marshes farther south in New Jersey and Maryland. For this reason the Conservancy continues to focus on other highly productive systems in the lower Connecticut River estuary.

The team made two special finds at Lord's Cove. *Lophotocarpus palustris* (also found in past years at Chapman's Pond) and horned pondweed (*Zannichella palustris*) are both listed as rare in Connecticut.

Also of great interest was the research done on the historical records of Great Meadow, which shows that the meadow has existed for 300 years as a shrinking alluvial floodplain of both the Falls and Connecticut Rivers.

Between 1800 and 1850 deforestation associated with the shipbuilding industry along the Falls River caused substantial erosion. The resultant sedimentation built a large delta at the mouth of the river.

During the next twenty years, six dams were erected, encumbering the rivers' flow and the deposition of sediments. In the meantime, sea level was rising so that the

net result was the shrinking of Great Meadow. In comparison, little morphological change appears to have occurred in Lord's Cove.

This summer's grant allows Dr. Holland and her students to search for additional maps and references for Lord's Cove and Chapman's Pond and to obtain peat/sediment cores at these sites as well as at Great Meadow. Through their analyses we will learn more of the geological and historical factors affecting development of three dynamic marshes in the Connecticut River estuary.

## CHIMON ISLAND HERONRY

For the second year in succession, Milan Bull and Peter Marra of the Connecticut Audubon Society's Natural History Services in Fairfield have received one of the Connecticut Chapter's small grants to study the heronry of Chimon Island. Bull is supervising the study, now in its fourth season.

In 1981, when the heron population had increased dramatically, Connecticut Audubon undertook an ambitious program of censusing, trapping, banding, and color-dyeing juvenile herons in order to clarify the status of the colony and its dispersal patterns.

Work on the heronry was abandoned in 1982, after researchers noticed that 50 percent of the black-crowned night heron and snowy egret populations had not returned to nest. Whether the intensive monitoring of the first year or predation had caused the birds to leave is still undetermined, but it seemed wise to forego additional intrusion on the nesting area. Researchers patrolled the site, counting only fledglings.

The 1983 objective was to identify coastal feeding areas used by the Chimon herons. We felt that it was critical to determine whether colony size is limited by food resources and to assess the viability of feeding areas.

The three most abundant species (black-crowned night heron, snowy egret, and great egret) were tracked to and from the colony in the evening and early morning. A researcher on the ground recorded the number of individuals, direction taken, and time. Notes on weather and tidal conditions were also recorded. Surveys were also conducted along the Connecticut coastline from Darien to Milford. Both sets of data were then correlated to determine whether the most frequently used flight lines led to the most heavily used feeding areas. In fact, they did, with the Norwalk Islands, the Mill Pond, and Milford Point Marsh being the most heavily used areas. (The latter is some 15 miles from Chimon.)

Heron appear to have adapted well to the urbanized Connecticut shoreline, and at this time, the size of the Chimon Island heronry does not appear to be limited by too few feeding grounds. However, at least one of the mainland feeding sites is threatened by development, and the Conservancy has not yet succeeded in persuading the landowner to sell.

# CHIMON ISLAND DEDICATION

and

## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

### 22ND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 8, 1984  
Sherwood Island State Park  
Westport, Connecticut

With great pleasure we announce that this year's annual meeting will be combined with a dedication ceremony for Chimon Island, the 70-acre heron rookery which is the centerpiece of The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Critical Areas Program. The ceremony will be held, rain or shine, at beautiful Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, on a grassy bluff overlooking Chimon Island and Long Island Sound. Governor William A. O'Neill, Honorary Chairman of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program, and other dignitaries plan to participate.

Although we are still short of the fundraising goal for Chimon, we have made sufficient progress toward the purchase amount that our trustees have therefore voted to buy the island (see article, page 1).

The importance of Chimon Island cannot be overstated. Home to over 2,000 nesting herons and egrets, Chimon is one of the three largest wading bird colonies on the entire Northeast coast. It is a tribute to our members and all participants in the project that this sanctuary will be forever protected.

We hope that you, our members, will join in celebrating this exciting conservation achievement.

**Directions to Sherwood Island State Park:** Take Exit 18 (Sherwood Island) off I-95 in Westport. Turn south, following signs to Park. Proceed one-quarter mile to Park entrance, follow signs to Group Picnic Area 2 (on right). I-95 parallels the Connecticut shoreline.

### NORWALK ISLAND BOAT TOURS

The Norwalk Seaport Association is holding its annual Oyster Festival September 7-9 in Norwalk, an event expected to draw 400,000 people over three days. As part of the festivities, there will be excursion boat tours to the Norwalk Islands, including Chimon Island, aboard the charter "Lady Joan."

There are no advance reservations; tickets must be purchased at the Festival. Parking is in well-marked lots in Norwalk with free bus transportation to Festival events, including to the dock of "Lady Joan." (Admission to the Festival is \$1.00; boat excursion cost is minimal, but unknown as of press time.) The boat leaves every hour from 10:00 a.m. to after dark. For further information, contact the Norwalk Seaport Association at 838-9444.

### PROGRAM

11:00 - 11:15	Business Meeting for All Members
11:15 - 11:45	Break (Open Bar)
11:45 - 12:30	Buffet Luncheon
12:30 - 1:30	Chimon Island Dedication and Awards Ceremony

Open Bar 11:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

RAIN OR SHINE



Chimon Island (center).

Photo by Robert Perron.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Meeting (no charge)

\_\_\_\_\_ Luncheon, including free bar (\$9.00/person)

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please mail to: The Nature Conservancy  
Connecticut Chapter  
55 High Street  
Middletown, CT 06457

Confirmation and parking validation will be sent to you by return mail.

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 20TH**

Space limited—reservations accepted in order received

Make checks payable to: The Nature Conservancy

## From the Land

Published for the members of  
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

SUMMER/1984

### Board of Trustees

Alexander S. Gardner, *Chairman*, New Canaan  
Peter Neill, *Vice Chairman*, Stony Creek  
John A. Blum, *Treasurer*, North Colebrook  
Peter B. Cooper, *Secretary*, Bethany  
Rufus Barringer, Hadlyme  
Russell Brenneman, Glastonbury  
Mrs. Edward S. Elliman, Greenwich  
Mrs. Harvey Gaylord, Niantic  
Richard H. Goodwin, East Haddam  
Sarah Richards, Guilford  
William Ross, Riverside  
Thomas Siccama, East Haven  
Mrs. S. Bruce Smart, Jr., Fairfield

### Committee on Science

Richard Goodwin, *Chairman*, Professor Emeritus, Connecticut College  
Robert Craig, Co-author, *Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut*  
Antoni Damman, Professor, University of Connecticut  
Leslie Mehrhoff, Senior Biologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
Joe Webb Peoples, Professor Emeritus, Wesleyan University  
Sarah Richards, Fish Biologist  
Thomas Siccama, Forest Lecturer, Yale University

### Corporate Advisory Board

Donald W. Davis, *Chairman*, Chairman, The Stanley Works, New Britain  
Bartlett Barnes, Chairman, Bristol Press Publishing Company, Bristol  
Frank J. Coyle, Chairman, Putnam Trust Company, Greenwich  
William B. Ellis, Chief Executive Officer, Northeast Utilities  
John H. Filer, Chairman, Aetna Life and Casualty Company, Hartford  
Worth Loomis, President, Dexter Corporation, Windsor Locks  
S. Bruce Smart, Jr., Chairman, Continental Group, Stamford  
Francis M. White, Chairman, Colonial Bancorp, Waterbury

### Critical Areas Program

William A. O'Neill, *Honorary Chairman*, Governor, State of Connecticut  
S. Bruce Smart, Jr., *Corporate Chairman*, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Continental Group, Inc.  
Russell Brenneman, Partner, law firm of Murtha, Cullina, Richter, and Pinney  
Colin M. Campbell, President, Wesleyan University  
Peter B. Cooper, Partner, law firm of Cooper, Whitney, Cochran and Krupp  
James F. English, Jr., President, Trinity College  
Alexander S. Gardner, Chairman, Connecticut Chapter Board of Trustees  
Sam Gejdenson, U.S. Congressman  
John Gordon, Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
Nancy L. Johnson, U.S. Congresswoman  
Barbara B. Kennelly, U.S. Congresswoman  
Stewart B. McKinney, U.S. Congressman  
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, State Biologist, Rare and Endangered Species, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
Toby Moffett, Toby Moffett Associates  
Bruce A. Morrison, U.S. Congressman  
William A. Niering, Director, Connecticut Arboretum  
Roger Tory Peterson, Ornithologist and Author  
William Ratchford, U.S. Congressman

### Staff

W. Kent Olson, *Executive Director*  
David P. Warren, *Director, Critical Areas Program*  
Polly W. Richter, *Office Manager and Editor*  
Carolyn K. Evans, *Assistant for Land Protection*  
Patricia A. Kendzior, *Secretary*  
Paula Rasch, *Secretary*

## CONFERENCE ON PRESERVATION: SMALL TOWNS AND SUBURBS

This fall the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation will hold a conference, "Coping with Success: Preservation in Small Towns and Suburbs," on Friday, November 9, at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury. Conference fees will be \$50 for Connecticut Preservation members, \$65 for non-members. For further information, call Charles Clark at 562-6312.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISIONS

At the September 8, 1984 annual meeting, Chapter members will be asked to vote for members of the Board of Trustees and on revisions to the Chapter by-laws. The Nominating Committee has made the following recommendations:

### Nominated as Members of the Board

For election by the general membership.

*A. Eugene Billings, Jr.*, Norfolk. New nominee.

*Russell Brenneman*, Glastonbury. Current Board member.

*Dr. Richard H. Goodwin*, East Haddam, Current Board member.

*William Ross*, Riverside. Current Board member.

*Edith (Mrs. S. Bruce) Smart*, Fairfield. Current Board member.

### Nominated as Officers

For election by the Board of Trustees.

*Alexander S. Gardner*, New Canaan. Chairman, 3rd term.

*Peter Neill*, Stony Creek. Vice-Chairman, 3rd term.

*John A. Blum*, North Colebrook. Treasurer, 9th term.

*Peter B. Cooper*, Bethany. Secretary, 3rd term.

### Proposed By-law Revisions

Copies are available from the Chapter office and will be distributed at the annual meeting. The major proposed revisions are:

1. Increase the maximum size of the Board of Trustees, including officers, from 16 to 20.
2. Establish ten-year limit on continuous service as either trustee or officer. Delete provision for automatic Board membership of past chairman.
3. Permit emergency action without a Board meeting to allow increased flexibility, subject to subsequent Board ratification.
4. Authorize more than one vice-chairman if the trustees so order.
5. Delete provision limiting the vice-chairman to no more than three successive one-year terms.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Since we last published a list of memorial contributions, gifts have been gratefully received in memory of the following:

Forrest M. Anderson  
Paul Banichar  
Robert F. Black  
Robert L. Calhoun  
Paul Mead Chase  
Timothy Collins  
Grant J. Durley

Margaret Goodrich  
Norman B. Newton  
Ralph Delos Peterson  
Clara Platt  
Jennie Schurig  
Arthur Sofman  
T. F. H. Tenney